Hip-Hop and R&B’s birth in 1980’s

Hip-Hop as a music genre has its roots in the predominantly African-American NYC’s neighborhood Bronx, and while it only had a major breakthrough in the US music industry in the 1990’s, along with the rise of commercially successful rappers such as MC Hammer, Ice T and Beastie Boys, the development of what Hip-Hop has become nowadays started back in late 1970’s. The elements that made the genre unique such as the undistinguished mixing, beat juggling and breaks which could be rapped over though, was influenced by Jamaican dub music, in such a way that Caribbean DJ Kool Herch is considered by many ‘The Father of Hip-Hop’. During the block parties, he began naming anyone who would wait for the breaks in the songs just to dance freestyle ‘B-Boy’. After that, Melle Mel, member of ‘The Furious Five’, the first hip-hop group which made it into Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, was credited as the first lyricist who called himself MC. While the first mixtapes were recorded, Hip-Hop also gained a large following in Philadelphia. Thus, everything began taking shape for the genre’s consolidation in the 1980’s.

Recently, National Geographic made popular the quote “The 80’s was the decade that made us”, and it couldn’t be truer for Hip-Hop. The genre began to be influenced by rock music, the lyrics had become more socially conscious and polished, and new divisions were also settled. New School Hip-Hop was known for having a more upbeat and funkier sound, and this element made the album ‘Licensed to III’ by the Beastie Boys skyrocket in popularity and become the first rap album to peak atop of Billboard in 1986. In the meantime, Gangsta rap became the most profitable subgenre of Hip-Hop, since it suited West Coast’s audiences taste better, rather New York’s listeners. Gradually, the genre began incorporating more Latino talent in it, as rappers of Porto Rican, Mexican and Cuban descent started their careers in either coasts and rapped in both English and Spanish. The movement also set its sights in the international market as Hiroshi Fujiwara took his experience from America to Japan, Sidney Duteil became the first black TV host in France while promoting the genre with the program ‘H.IP.H.O.P’ and Afrika Bambaataa was in the airwaves of radios from all over the world with the single ‘Planet Rock’.

Besides that, Run–D.M.C., the group which was acknowledged by both Vh1 and MTV as the ‘Greatest Hip-Hop Group of All Time’ hooked up with Aerosmith for the lead single of ‘Raising Hell’, one of the best-selling rap albums of all time. The collaboration was a historical event, mainly because it broke the strong musical racial barrier that existed in Rock/Hip-Hop, and helped in both the group’s crossover to mainstream and Aerosmith’s revival in popularity. Moreover, Hip-Hop also influenced Contemporary R&B, which eventually also found its audience worldwide with the jazzy feel along with the electronic elements and percussion, had Tina Turner as a major pioneer. Michael and Janet Jackson, Whitney Houston, Boys II Men and Bobby Brown were the artists who first made of use it in their work, due to the influential producer Teddy Riley, who is credited as being the massive defining force behind the genre.